



City of Seattle
Department of Design,
Construction and Land Use

April 30, 2001

Proposed 1997 Seattle Mechanical Code Cleanup Ordinance

Following is a brief summary of the proposed amendments to the 1997 Seattle Mechanical Code.

Section 117.4 Permit Expirations: The proposed language is the same as language proposed for the Seattle Building Code. This section is amended to provide that applications for which no permit is issued within 12 months will expire. Under certain circumstances, the building official is given latitude to extend the time period up to 24 months. Extensions may be granted only once. The time period to complete an application may be extended longer than 24 months if issuance of the permit is delayed by litigation, preparation of an environmental impact statement, appeals, or other causes related to the application but beyond the applicant's control. After a permit application expires, the applicant must resubmit plans and pay a new fee. The building official is required to notify the applicant in writing at least 30 days before the application is due to expire.

Section 406 Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality

Table 4-B Ventilation Rates for Group R Occupancies

Table 4-D Prescriptive Integrated Forced-Air Supply Duct Sizing

New Table 4-F Prescriptive Supply Fan Duct Sizing: The Washington State Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality (VIAQ) Code is incorporated into the Seattle Mechanical Code primarily in Section 406 and the tables noted above. The Washington State Building Code Council substantially revised VIAQ Code to make the requirements more explicit and easier to understand. Thus the purpose of the proposed amendments to the Seattle Mechanical Code is to incorporate the amendments to the State VIAQ Code into equivalent Seattle Mechanical Code section. These amendments mostly affect residential construction.

Section 507.10 Clearances: The amendment to this section corrects a conflict with Seattle Mechanical Code Table 3-B, which specifies fire-resistive construction requirements for reducing clearances to combustibles. Currently, this section requires one-hour fire resistive construction in order to reduce clearance to combustibles from an exposed grease duct system. The amendment provides that when designing an exposed grease duct system designers must consult Table 3-B to determine fire-resistive construction requirements in order to reduce clearance to combustibles.

Section 507.13 Make-up air for Commercial Kitchen Hoods: The amendment to this section adds an exception to the make-up air requirement for commercial kitchen hoods used to exhaust ventilation air that would otherwise exfiltrate or be exhausted by other fan systems. A note explaining the appropriate circumstances under which the exception could be applied is also added.

Section 508.1 Where Hoods are Required: The first amendment to this section clarifies that a commercial kitchen hood is not required in certain locations where residential-type kitchen equipment is installed and the kitchen serves no more than 150 meals per day. Another amendment adds an exception to the make-up air requirement for commercial kitchen hoods used to exhaust ventilation air that would otherwise exfiltrate or be exhausted by other fan systems. A note is also added explaining the appropriate circumstances under which the make-up air exception could be applied. The last amendment adds a cross reference to Section 1439 of the 2000 Washington State Energy Code, which contains similar language.

Section 901.2 Decorative Gas Appliances for Installation in Solid-fuel-burning

Fireplaces: This amendment requires tight fitting metal or ceramic doors on decorative gas appliances installed in fireplaces and also requires that combustion air be supplied directly to the decorative gas appliance from outside the structure.

Section 1312.20 Fuel-Gas Piping, Hangers and Supports: Section 1312.20 is a Seattle amendment to the Uniform Mechanical Code, which would be repealed by this amendment. The Plumbing Code regulates this subject and these requirements are currently reviewed and enforced by the Seattle/King County Public Health Department plumbing inspectors.